

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 01796 031609Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 031550Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5518

INFOR AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1796

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, VT

SUBJECT: VATICAN STATEMENT ON LEBANON

REF: STATE 024334, BEIRUT 0995

1. WE CONVEYED INFORMATION IN REFTELS TO ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI THROUGH VATICAN'S MIDDLE EAST DESK OFFICER MSGR. MONTERISI JAN 31. MONTERISI EXPRESSED HOLY SEE'S APPRECIATION FOR USG COURTESY, STATING THAT IT WAS THE FULLEST ACCOUNT THAT HOLY SEE HAD SO FAR RECEIVED REGARDING THIS MATTER.

2. MONTERISI INFORMED US FEB 3 THAT POPE PAUL WAS SENDING FATHER HENRI DE REIDMATTEN, SECRETARY OF PONTIFICAL COUNCIL "COR UNUM", TO BEIRUT. DE REIDMATTEN, WHO DEPARTED ROME YESTERDAY, WILL ASSESS THE STATUS AND PLANS FOR ASSISTANCE DIRECTED BY ECCLESIASTICAL INSTITUTIONS AND WILL ALSO ASSESS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. MONTERISI ADDED THAT HOLY SEE CONSIDERED LEBANESE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS AT DELICATE STAGE AND IS CONSIDERING VERY CAREFULLY THE POPE'S NEXT PUBLIC STATEMENT ON LEBANON. WE BELIEVE THAT DE REIDMATTEN'S CURRENT MISSION IS CRITICAL ELEMENT IN THIS EVALUATION. MONTERISI PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED ABOUT THE MISSION AND WE SHALL SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO SEE DE REIDMATTEN ON HIS RETURN TO ROME.

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3. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. VOLPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME01796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-0904
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760287/aaaacyug.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 24334, 76 BEIRUT 995
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VATICAN STATEMENT ON LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, VT
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006